JBACE

ANNUAL REPORT 2011-2012

Comité consultatif pour l'environnement de la Baie James

James Bay Advisory Committee on the Environment

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Cover page photo: Beesum Communications

Photos on pages 3, 4 and 23: Beesum Communications

Photo of Minister Pierre Arcand, MDDEP: Céline Côté

Translation: Kathryn Lawson

Graphic design: Mona Turner

ANNUAL REPORT
2011 – 2012

JAMES BAY ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON THE ENVIRONMENT

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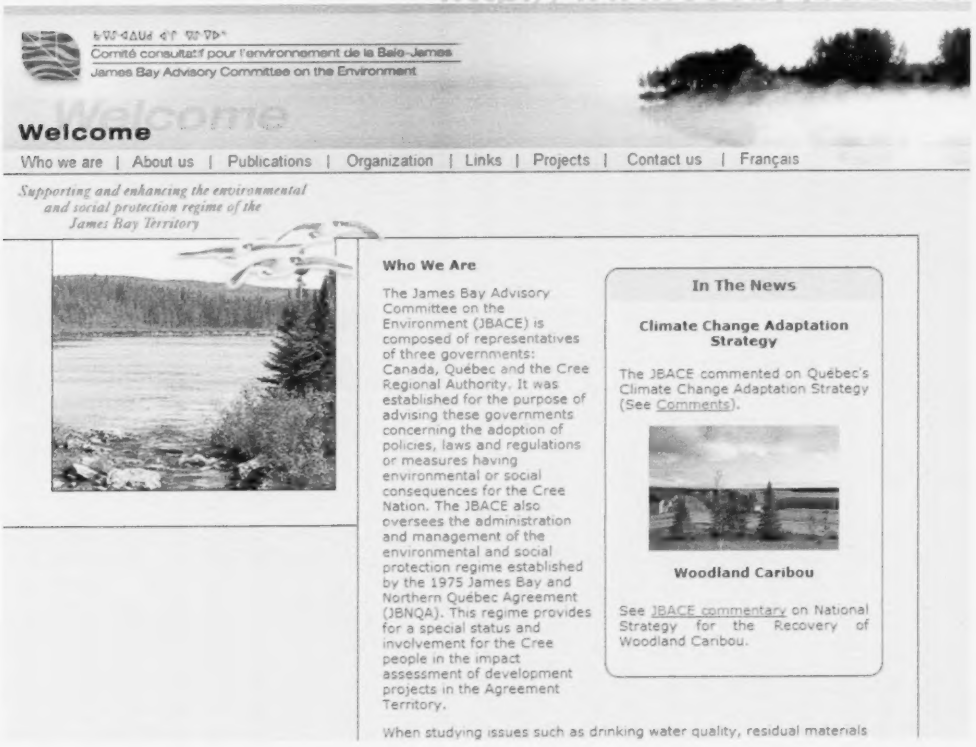
This report is available on the website of the James Bay Advisory Committee on the Environment. The site contains a wealth of information pertaining to the Committee, including its mandate and activities, in three languages.

http://www.ccebj-jbace.ca


Comité consultatif pour l'environnement de la Baie-James
James Bay Advisory Committee on the Environment
Welcome
Who we are | About us | Publications | Organization | Links | Projects | Contact us | Français
Supporting and enhancing the environmental and social protection regime of the James Bay Territory
Who We Are
The James Bay Advisory Committee on the Environment (JBACE) is composed of representatives of three governments: Canada, Québec and the Cree Regional Authority. It was established for the purpose of advising these governments concerning the adoption of policies, laws and regulations or measures having environmental or social consequences for the Cree Nation. The JBACE also oversees the administration and management of the environmental and social protection regime established by the 1975 James Bay and Northern Québec Agreement (JBNQA). This regime provides for a special status and involvement for the Cree people in the impact assessment of development projects in the Agreement Territory.
In The News
Climate Change Adaptation Strategy
The JBACE commented on Québec's Climate Change Adaptation Strategy (See Comments).
Woodland Caribou
See JBACE commentary on National Strategy for the Recovery of Woodland Caribou.
When studying issues such as drinking water quality, residual materials

Copies of this report are also available from the secretariat:

JBACE

383, rue Saint-Jacques, bureau C-220

Montréal (Québec) H2Y 1N9

514-286-4400

514-284-0039

Legal deposit

Bibliothèque nationale du Québec

National Library of Canada

ISBN

ISSN

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Letter to the Environment Ministers and the Grand Chief — i

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN — ii

TERRITORY COVERED BY THE ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL PROTECTION REGIME (Section 22) — iii

INTRODUCTION — 1

1 THE PLAN NORD — 2

a) 50 % of the territory devoted to non-industrial activities — 2

b) Strategic environmental assessment proposal — 2

2 PROTECTED AREA PROPOSALS — 4

3 WOODLAND CARIBOU RECOVERY — 5

a) James Bay Territory — 5

b) National Recovery Strategy — 5

4 ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT PROCEDURES — 6

a) Updating of the assessment and review procedure — 6

i. *Public participation* — 6

ii. *Review of the lists of developments* — 6

b) Review of the Canadian Environmental Assessment Act — 6

5 MINING DEVELOPMENT — 7

a) Amendment of the Mining Act — 7

b) Follow-up on the tailings dike failure at the old Opemiska mine — 7

6 CLIMATE CHANGES IN THE TERRITORY — 8

a) Climate change action plan — 8

b) Adaptation strategy — 8

c) Cree perspective — 8

7 FOREST MANAGEMENT — 9

a) Ecosystem-based management — 9

b) Local forests — 9

c) Mandate of the JBACE under the new forest regime — 9

Meeting with the Minister of the MDDEP — 10

CONCLUSION — 11

Table: Three issues: regional governance, uranium and residual materials management — 12

APPENDIX 1 - COMPOSITION AND MEETINGS OF THE JBACE — 13

1.1 COMPOSITION OF THE JBACE — 13

1.2 COMPOSITION OF THE SUBCOMMITTEES — 13

1.2.1 *Administrative Committee* — 13

1.2.2 *Subcommittee on land use planning and protected areas* — 13

1.2.3 *Subcommittee on public consultation* — 14

1.2.4 *Subcommittee on Bill 14 amending the Mining Act* — 14

1.2.5 *Subcommittee on mineral exploration* — 14

1.2.6 *Subcommittee on the review of the Canadian Environmental Assessment Act* — 14

1.3 SECRETARIAT — 14

1.4 JBACE MEETINGS — 14

APPENDIX 2 - STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES FOR THE YEAR ENDED MARCH 31, 2012 — 15

APPENDIX 3 - COMPOSITION AND MEETINGS OF THE EVALUATING COMMITTEE (COMEV), PROVINCIAL REVIEW COMMITTEE (COMEX) AND FEDERAL REVIEW PANEL (COFEX-SOUTH) — 16

APPENDIX 4 - PROJECTS SUBMITTED TO THE EVALUATING COMMITTEE (COMEV), PROVINCIAL REVIEW COMMITTEE (COMEX) AND FEDERAL REVIEW PANEL (COFEX-SOUTH) — 17

March 31, 2012

The Honourable Peter Kent
Minister of the Environment of Canada

The Honourable Pierre Arcand
Minister of Sustainable Development, Environment
and Parks of Québec

Mr. Matthew Coon Come
Grand Chief
Grand Council of the Crees (Eeyou Istchee)

Gentlemen:

I am pleased to send you the activity report of the James Bay Advisory Committee on the Environment for the year ended March 31, 2012.

Respectfully submitted,

Ashley Iserhoff
Chairman

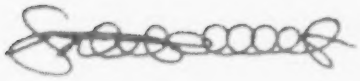
CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE

The buzz surrounding northern Québec since the announcement of the Plan Nord brings to mind the other period of major economic development in James Bay. In the early 1970s, the Québec government was planning to build the La Grande hydroelectric complex, which would change the face of Eeyou Istchee, the Territory, forever.

Representations by the Crees led to negotiations between the governments of Canada and Québec, the Crees and the Inuit and the eventual signing of the 1975 James Bay and Northern Québec Agreement (JBNQA). The first modern-day Aboriginal treaty in Canada, the JBNQA safeguards the Cree people's traditional way of life and land regime in the James Bay territory by recognizing their hunting, fishing and trapping rights. The JBNQA also established an environmental and social protection regime that is critical to the protection of those hunting, fishing and trapping rights. Among other things, the regime provides for an environmental assessment procedure that was the first of its kind in Canada.

The context of the Plan Nord differs considerably from that of the 1970s. First, because the JBNQA guarantees protection of Cree rights and establishes an environmental and social framework for development projects. Second, because Québec and the Crees are currently negotiating an inclusive regional governance model for the Crees as well as the Jamesians. If the model is implemented, the Crees would be full partners in the Plan Nord, and particularly in land-use decisions.

Over the last year, the JBACE has stressed the need to identify, as early as possible in the planning process for projects carried out under the Plan Nord, areas that must be protected from industrial development. It must be underlined that the identity of the Cree people was shaped by their relationship to the land and the animals that live on it. Sustainable development necessarily involves respecting the way of life and system of land management that have ensured the Crees' survival for thousands of years - and must continue to do so.



Ashley Iserhoff
Chairman
March 31, 2012

TERRITORY COVERED BY THE ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL PROTECTION REGIME (Section 22)

Limits

- Territory covered by the regime
- Cree Category I lands
- Cree Category II lands
- Southern limit of JBNQA Territory
- Border

Infrastructures

- Mine project
- Hydroelectric power station
- Hydroelectric power station in construction

Conservation areas

- Exceptional forest ecosystem
- Protected area

Sources

Land division, mine site, MRNF-Québec, 2012
Exceptional forest ecosystem, MRNF-Québec, 2012
Protected area, MDDEP, 2012
Hydroelectric infrastructures, CEHQ, 2012

N O E S

0 45 90 km

Scale : 1 : 4 500 000
Map projection : Conique de Lambert, NAD83
Produced by : Groupe Nippour, may 2012

INTRODUCTION

The North and the keen interest to develop it was a hot topic in 2011-2012. Northern Québec is a rich, diversified territory that has a strong development potential. Its great diversity of ecosystems and abundant natural resources, in particular its energy, mineral, metal and forest resources, open the door to development projects across all sectors. Application of the environmental and social impact assessment and review procedure established by Section 22 of the James Bay and Northern Québec Agreement (JBNQA) for projects carried out in the James Bay Territory, or "Eeyou Istchee," is therefore vital.

The role of the James Bay Advisory Committee on the Environment (JBACE) is to oversee the administration and management of the environmental and social protection regime. Where necessary, the Committee makes recommendations or suggests measures for improving the regime to the parties concerned by Section 22[1]. The JBACE also has a mandate to comment on legislative, regulatory and policy proposals of the governments to ensure they comply with the provisions of the environmental and social protection regime.

The regime specifically provides for the protection of the hunting, fishing and trapping rights of Aboriginal people established by Section 24 of the JBNQA. The Advisory Committee must ensure that development has a minimum impact on Aboriginal communities, wildlife resources and the environment in the territory covered by Section 22 of the JBNQA (the "Territory").

In 2011-2012, the JBACE gave special attention to the Plan Nord and its consequences for the environmental and social protection regime. The Plan Nord was the backdrop for several issues examined by the Committee last year, including the creation of protected areas, the protection of woodland caribou and the framework for mining activities.

1 The governments of Canada and Québec and the Cree Regional Authority.

1 THE PLAN NORD

The Québec government has announced the deployment of a development plan for northern regions that "must be an exemplary sustainable development project that integrates energy, mining, forest, bio-food, tourism and transportation development, the development of wildlife, environmental protection and the preservation of biodiversity."[2] In May 2011, the government completed an important step by unveiling the first five-year action plan of its Plan Nord.

a) 50% of the territory devoted to non-industrial activities

The JBACE took part in the consultation on the government's commitment to set aside 50% of the territory covered by the Plan Nord for conservation and non-industrial activities.[3] The brief submitted by the Committee underlined that more than 26% of the territory is already affected by industrial activities (hydroelectric development, mining, forest management). In light of the numerous projects announced in relation to the Plan Nord, the JBACE believes that ecological planning of areas to be set aside for non-industrial activities must be carried out as soon as possible.[4]

In the JBACE's opinion, future protected areas must be selected as much for their cultural significance for the Crees as for their ecological value. Moreover, the government should give preference to conservation areas with habitat connectivity potential in order to help large-range species, in particular woodland caribou.

The JBACE also thinks it is important that boreal forest ecosystems subject to forest management, i.e. the portion of the boreal forest below the northern limit for commercial timber allocations, be well represented. Given the greater number of conservation constraints in boreal forest areas under management, the government should redouble its efforts to ensure that representative areas are protected.

b) Strategic environmental assessment proposal

The JBACE remains convinced that the Québec government must conduct a strategic environmental assessment (SEA) of the Plan Nord so as to take the major environmental and social issues relating to accelerated development of the territory into account before the plan is implemented. In the Committee's opinion, it is impossible to address these issues in the project-by-project assessment process under Section 22 of the JBNQA.

2 Gouvernement du Québec, ministère des Ressources naturelles et de la Faune, Plan Nord – Building Northern Québec Together. First Action Plan, 2011. p. 14.

3 MDDEP representatives, including Deputy Minister Diane Jean, gave a presentation to the JBACE in October 2011.

4 The brief is available on the JBACE website under "Publications."

In 2010, the JBACE commissioned a draft scoping document with a view to SEA of the Plan Nord.[5] The document, along with a recommendation to conduct an SEA, was sent to the Minister of Natural Resources and Wildlife (also the minister responsible for the Plan Nord). Given that all projects carried out under the Plan Nord are dependent on the construction of a transportation network, the JBACE recommended beginning with an SEA of the transportation sector. The Committee believes that the social impacts of "opening up the territory" on Cree communities and their way of life must be examined.

In 2011, the JBACE asked to meet with the new Minister of Natural Resources and Wildlife, Clément Gignac, to discuss its recommendation for SEA of the Plan Nord. A presentation on this topic was also given at the "Environmental Assessment and the Territory" workshop organized by the First Nations of Quebec and Labrador Sustainable Development Institute in November 2011. More than ever, the JBACE believes that SEA is necessary to clearly identify the environmental and social stakes involved in the Plan Nord's implementation.

5 Idem.

2

PROTECTED AREA PROPOSALS

The JBACE advocates for significant involvement of the Crees in the establishment of new protected areas in the James Bay Territory, as provided for in the Section 22 regime of the JBNQA. Accordingly, the government must give due consideration to the cultural significance of sites and accord special importance to protected areas proposed by Cree First Nations.

In February 2011, the JBACE endorsed the Cree Nation of Nemaska's proposal to set aside the territory known as Chisesaakahiikan as a protected area. In June, it endorsed the Cree First Nation of Waswanipi's proposal to set aside the territory known as Mishigamish as a protected area. In addition to having significant cultural importance for the Crees, these two territories harbour mature and overmature forests that provide habitat for woodland caribou.

The Committee wrote to the Deputy Minister of Sustainable Development, Environment and Parks calling for acceleration of the protected areas establishment process because of development pressure, in particular on the Chisesaakahiikan and Mishigamish territories.

3 WOODLAND CARIBOU RECOVERY

The Woodland Caribou is a keystone species for both boreal forest ecosystems and the Cree way of life. However, it is listed as threatened under the federal Species at Risk Act and as vulnerable under the Québec Act respecting threatened and vulnerable species.

a) James Bay Territory

In 2011, the JBACE continued its efforts to obtain woodland caribou data from the Ministère des Ressources naturelles et de la Faune (MRNF) and eventually received the MRNF's collaboration. As well, the JBACE's analyst was invited to participate in the work of the special task force on woodland caribou recovery in the territory covered by Chapter 3 of the Agreement Concerning a New Relationship Between le Gouvernement du Québec and the Crees of Québec (also known as the Paix des Braves).[6] Researchers are contributing to the work and the special task force is expected to make recommendations soon regarding measures to foster the recovery of caribou populations in the James Bay Territory.

b) National recovery strategy

The JBACE commented on Environment Canada's proposed national recovery strategy for the boreal caribou population. The Committee recommended better alignment of the proposed measures with provincial recovery measures; moreover, access to data held by the MRNF would correct a serious deficiency in the strategy by showing the current status of woodland caribou herds in Québec, and more specifically in the James Bay Territory. This would make it possible to identify critical habitat that must be preserved.

6 Chapter 3 of the Paix des Braves establishes an adapted forestry regime for the territory covered by this agreement.

4

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT PROCEDURES

The JBACE has a mandate to examine the environmental and social impact assessment and review mechanisms and procedures for the Territory and, where necessary, make recommendations for improving them. The Committee's work in this regard focused on the public consultation procedure and the lists of developments subject to and exempt from assessment (schedules 1 and 2 of Section 22). In addition, the JBACE submitted comments on the current review of the Canadian Environmental Assessment Act, which also applies to the JBNQA Territory.

a) Updating of the assessment and review procedure

i. Public participation

The James Bay and Northern Québec Agreement (JBNQA) does not provide a formal mechanism for public consultation during the assessment or review of development projects. The subcommittee on public consultation is in the process of formulating recommendations for making the public consultation procedure more predictable and more transparent while remaining flexible so it can be adapted to Cree communities and the scope of projects. The JBACE will submit its recommendations to the signatory parties to Section 22 of the JBNQA in the near future.[7]

ii. Review of the lists of developments

The assessment and review procedure is based on the lists of developments automatically subject to and exempt from assessment (schedules 1 and 2 of Section 22). In 2008, the JBACE gave the signatory parties its recommendations for reviewing the lists in the light of experience with the procedure, the regulatory framework and technological changes. The JBACE recently invited the parties to act on its recommendations. Discussions to that effect have begun.

The JBACE intends to complete its work on mineral exploration projects: no recommendations were made in this regard in 2008 owing to the complex nature of these projects. The JBACE is currently working to make the assessment and review process more predictable and more transparent by determining the types of exploration that should be subject to or exempt from assessment.

b) Review of the Canadian Environmental Assessment Act

The brief submitted by the JBACE during the review of the Canadian Environmental Assessment Act (CEAA) placed emphasis on two essential elements of the Section 22 regime. In the Committee's opinion, the CEAA must recognize the special status and involvement for the Cree people as well as the hunting, fishing and trapping rights guaranteed to them under the JBNQA. In addition, the JBACE called for better coordination when the JBNQA and CEAA environmental assessment procedures are triggered simultaneously.

In November 2011, a JBACE delegation was invited to present a brief during the hearings of the House of Commons Standing Committee on Environment and Sustainable Development.

7 The governments of Canada and Québec and the Cree Regional Authority.

5 MINING DEVELOPMENT

In 2011, the JBACE commented on the current reform of Québec's Mining Act and followed up on the impact monitoring being conducted at an old mine site in the Territory. The JBACE is calling for, among other things, the establishment of a regulatory framework that takes full account of the exercise of the Crees' hunting, fishing and trapping rights.

a) Amendement of the Mining Act

The JBACE submitted a brief to the Québec government on Bill 14 amending the Mining Act. The bill draws on the principles of the Sustainable Development Act with a view to balancing the rights of mining companies with the rights of citizens. Among the various issues addressed by the reform, the JBACE is in favour of the new provisions requiring the holding of public consultations prior to obtaining a mining lease. However, the JBACE recommended that the consultations be aligned with the Section 22 assessment and review procedure.

Since several elements of the bill still need to be clarified, the JBACE remains concerned and is following this issue closely. The bill would empower the Minister of Natural Resources and Wildlife to refuse a mineral exploration project in an area within an urbanization perimeter. The JBACE wonders whether the Minister's discretionary power would extend to sites of wildlife interest identified by the Crees.

Lastly, the JBACE thinks the framework for mineral exploration needs to be tightened and the cumulative impacts of exploration activities considered, given the significant increase in these activities in the Territory. The Committee also thinks that the process of informing the public about current mining projects needs to be improved by creating a public registry on mining activities in the Territory.

b) Follow-up on the tailings dike failure at the old Opemiska mine

The JBACE pointed out deficiencies in information dissemination and Cree involvement in impact monitoring and restoration work at the old Opemiska tailings pond. A breach of the tailings dike in 2008 released 1 million m^3 of waste liquid into the environment.

The MRNF responded to the JBACE's concerns by pledging to inform the Cree communities directly on the results of the study on impacts on fish habitat. The MRNF will be giving a presentation in Waswanipi, whose residents are concerned about fish and water quality in the Waswanipi river basin as a result of the tailings spill.

6 CLIMATE CHANGES IN THE TERRITORY

Existing climate change models show that Québec's northern regions are being affected. The marked climatic variations in these regions demand adaptation strategies, such as alternative means of getting to Cree traplines in winter due to thinner and softer ice cover on waterways. Since this has a major impact on the Crees' traditional activities, the JBACE is collaborating on a project to identify solutions to minimize the negative effects on Aboriginal people and wildlife resources.

a) Climate change action plan

The JBACE supports the Québec government initiative to adopt a climate change adaptation strategy and action plan for 2013-2020 that maintain and enhance the measures contained in the 2006-2012 action plan. The Committee stresses the need to support research on climate change impacts on the boreal forest and, more specifically, on the Crees' ability to exercise their wildlife harvesting rights. The JBACE is also in support of updating the MDDEP project authorization system to take into account climate change impacts, for proposed hydroelectric facilities and tailings sites, among other projects.

b) Adaptation strategy

The JBACE took part in the consultations on the Québec government's proposed climate change adaptation strategy. The Committee approves the initiative to strengthen knowledge acquisition in respect of northern regions, but stresses that this knowledge must incorporate Aboriginal ecological knowledge to facilitate the adoption of adaptation measures by the communities.

c) Cree perspective

The JBACE collaborated on a project initiated by the Cree Trappers' Association to record the Cree perspective on climate change impacts and adaptation strategies. Workshops were held in three communities to gather information and discuss adaptation priorities. The information collected was recorded in a database and placed on the Cree Geoportal website, which includes an interactive map showing climate change observations.

FOREST MANAGEMENT

The JBACE has a mandate to comment on forest management plans affecting the James Bay Territory before they are approved by the Minister of Natural Resources and Wildlife. This mandate is more important than ever given the impending implementation of Québec's new forest regime. However, in 2010 the JBACE was forced to stop reviewing amendments to forest management plans due to a lack of financial resources. The Committee nevertheless continues to monitor developments in order to stay abreast of initiatives that might concern it.

a) Ecosystem-based management

The Sustainable Forest Development Act and the proposed sustainable forest management strategy both provide for the gradual implementation of ecosystem-based management, a management method that mimics natural disturbances (fire, pests, disease) so that managed forests resemble natural forests as much as possible.

In June 2011, an MRNF official gave a presentation on the challenges of applying ecosystem-based management in the James Bay Territory. They include reducing the area under regeneration and increasing the percentage of old forest and large forest islands. Since forest management in the James Bay Territory is governed by the Paix des Braves, ecosystem-based management in the Territory must be the subject of an agreement between the Québec government and the Crees.

b) Local forests

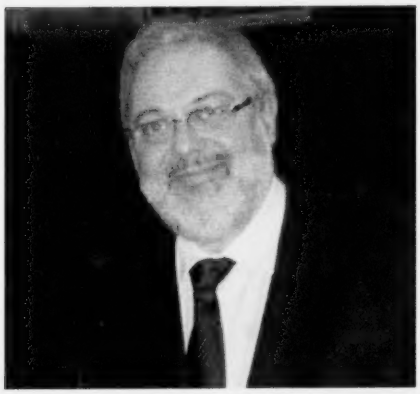
In September 2011, the Québec government launched a public consultation on its proposed local forests policy, another component of the new forest regime. Management of local forests and their resources would be delegated to the local communities. Around 15 local forests would be established in Québec between 2013 and 2018 and operated on a pilot basis.

The JBACE recommended that the special status and involvement for the Cree people as well as the hunting, fishing and trapping rights guaranteed under the JBNQA be respected during the process of selecting local forests. Local forests must also be selected taking into account the provisions of the adapted forestry regime established by the Paix des Braves, as well as the regional governance negotiations currently taking place between Québec and the Crees.

c) Mandate of the JBACE under the new forest regime

Under Québec's new forest regime, the MRNF, rather than forest companies, is responsible for drawing up the integrated forest development plans for the period 2013-2018. Since the preliminary plans are supposed to be submitted in 2012, the JBACE hopes to be a preferential advisor to the governments in relation to issues relating to the guiding principles of the environmental and social protection regime, in particular Cree involvement, incorporation of ecological knowledge and sites of interest, and maintenance of wildlife harvesting activities.

Meeting with the Minister of Sustainable Development, Environment and Parks



The Minister of Sustainable Development, Environment and Parks, Pierre Arcand, met with JBACE members on June 17, 2011, to discuss the consultation on the government's commitment to devote 50% of the area covered by the Plan Nord to non-industrial activities as well as the JBACE's proposal to conduct a strategic environmental assessment.

The members also made recommendations for updating the lists of developments subject to and exempt from assessment. Lastly, they reminded the Minister that the amount of funding allocated to the JBACE was determined in 2001 and must be increased to enable the Committee to fully discharge its mandate.

CONCLUSION

The James Bay Territory has undergone major economic, environmental and social changes since the La Grande hydroelectric project in the 1970s. And these changes could accelerate with the developments announced under the Plan Nord and the need to create jobs for the Territory's rapidly growing Cree population. But development must be balanced with the two pillars of the Crees' economy and survival, i.e. the land and a traditional way of life based on hunting, fishing and trapping.

In the JBACE's opinion, it is crucial that the Section 22 regime evolve to account for these changes while fulfilling its primary purpose of environmental and social protection. That is why the Committee formulated recommendations to modernize the regime. More specifically, the lists of developments subject to and exempt from assessment were reviewed in the light of experience with the assessment and review process, the regulatory framework and technological changes. The JBACE is also formulating recommendations to bring the public consultation procedure in line with the current standards for public participation.

As regards the Plan Nord, the JBACE recommended improving the planning process by conducting a strategic environmental assessment (SEA). It is imperative that the major strategic issues be addressed before development projects are approved so as to ensure harmonious implementation of the plan. With the future construction of new roads in the James Bay Territory providing access to areas previously set aside for exclusive use by the Crees, SEA would provide benchmarks for assessing the impact of projects on the Crees and their ability to exercise their guaranteed rights.

The JBNQA defines the JBACE as the preferential and official forum for responsible governments concerning the formulation of laws and regulations relating to the environmental and social protection regime. It is in light of this mandate that the Committee hopes to help align the Plan Nord with the guiding principles of the James Bay and Northern Québec Agreement, which already, back in 1975, stated the need to balance economic, social and environmental needs.

THREE ISSUES: REGIONAL GOVERNANCE, URANIUM AND RESIDUAL MATERIALS MANAGEMENT

ISSUE	ACTION	FOLLOW-UP
Framework agreement on regional governance	Letter to the Québec Premier and the Grand Chief of the Crees: • The JBACE would like to examine issues relating to Section 22 provisions or land use.	Reply from the executive director of the Grand Council of the Crees: • Where deemed necessary, the JBACE will be consulted on matters related to Section 22 of the JBNQA.
Matoush uranium exploration project	Letter to the federal and provincial administrators of the regime and the president of the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission (CNSC): • Adopt a precautionary approach, because this is the first uranium exploration project in Québec. • Release accurate information adapted to the Crees.	Replies received : • Federal administrator : ◦ special involvement for the Crees will be ensured; ◦ the Federal Review Panel (COFEX-South) releases project-related information; ◦ COFEX-South's report will be made public and translated into Cree. • President of the CNSC : ◦ importance of consulting the Crees and respecting their rights; ◦ in-depth project review to ensure protection of workers, the public and the environment; ◦ public hearings planned on the granting of permits/ licences for the project.
Québec's Residual Materials Management Policy	Presentation by the MDDEP (Nov. 2011) : • Goal: reduce the residual materials disposal rate to 700 kg per person per year. • Ban the disposal of organic material starting in 2020. • Implement the new regulation respecting recovery of residual materials. • Concerted action to implement the policy in Northern Québec.	

APPENDIX 1

COMPOSITION AND MEETINGS OF THE JBACE

1.1 Composition of the JBACE

Members appointed by the Cree Regional Authority (CRA):

Ashley Iserhoff, Chairman
Isaac Voyageur, Vice-Chairman
Chantal Otter Tétreault
Norman Wapachee

Members appointed by the Government of Canada:

Annie Déziel
Eddy Jenniss (since October 2011)
Maryse Lemire
Jean Picard

Members appointed by the Gouvernement du Québec:

Denyse Gouin
Guy Hétu
Réal Lavigne
Jean-François Coulombe (since January 2012)
Josée Brazeau (until July 2011)

1.2 Composition of the subcommittees

1.2.1 ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE

Denyse Gouin, Québec
Chantal Otter Tétreault, CRA
Jean Picard, Canada
Marc Jetten, Executive Secretary

1.2.2 SUBCOMMITTEE ON LAND USE PLANNING AND PROTECTED AREAS

Josée Brazeau, Québec
Annie Déziel, Canada
Chantal Otter Tétreault, CRA
Graeme Morin, Analyst

1.2.3 SUBCOMMITTEE ON PUBLIC CONSULTATION
Jean-François Coulombe, Québec
Annie Déziel, Canada
Chantal Otter Tétreault, CRA
Norman Wapachee, CRA
Graeme Morin, Analyst
Experts from the Section 22 committees and the MDDEP

1.2.4 SUBCOMMITTEE ON BILL 14 AMENDING THE MINING ACT
Guy Hétu, Québec
Chantal Otter Tétreault, CRA
Jean Picard, Canada
Graeme Morin, Analyst

1.2.5 SUBCOMMITTEE ON MINERAL EXPLORATION
Aurora Hernandez, CRA
Guy Hétu, Québec
Chantal Otter Tétreault, CRA
Jean Picard, Canada
Solaine Prince, Québec
Graeme Morin, Analyst

1.2.6 SUBCOMMITTEE ON THE REVIEW OF THE CANADIAN ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT ACT
Annie Déziel, Canada
Denyse Gouin, Québec
Ginette Lajoie, CRA
Graeme Morin, Analyst

1.3 Secretariat

Marc Jetten, Executive Secretary
Louise Bélanger, Secretariat Officer
Graeme Morin, Environmental Analyst

1.4 JBACE meetings

The Committee met five times in 2011-2012:

168th meeting	Conference call, April 14, 2011;
169th meeting	Oujé-Bougoumou, June 1 and 2, 2011;
170th meeting	Montréal, October 12 and 13, 2011;
171st meeting	Montréal, November 29, 2011;
172nd meeting	Québec City, February 29, 2012.

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES FOR THE YEAR ENDED MARCH 31, 2012

(Unaudited – see notice to reader*)

INCOME	
Subsidy paid to the JBACE	$221,000
Evaluating Committee Secretariat (COMEV)	30,000
Total Income	**$251,000**
OPERATING EXPENDITURES	
Salaries, wages, benefits	$146,650
Re-assessment of social benefits	6,756
Telecommunications	4,756
Rent (office space)	27,262
Travel expenses	2,359
Translation	27,595
Photocopying	6,091
Messenger services, postage	621
Office supplies, furniture and computer equipment	4,043
Expert opinions, meeting expenses	283
Insurance	384
Dues, fees, memberships, conferences	331
Professional fees	1,230
Advisory expenses	-
Training	977
Internet	761
Interest, bank charges	295
Amortization	1,409
Sub-total JBACE	231,803
Expenditures attributable to COMEV	30,000
Total operating expenses	**$261,803**
OTHER FINANCIAL ACTIVITY	
Interest income	$1,937

The Financial Statements and Notice to Reader, prepared by RUEL GIROUX, Chartered Accountants, are available upon request.

APPENDIX 3

COMPOSITION AND MEETINGS OF THE EVALUATING COMMITTEE (COMEV), PROVINCIAL REVIEW COMMITTEE (COMEX) AND FEDERAL REVIEW PANEL (COFEX-SOUTH)

COMMITTEE	MEMBERS		MEETINGS		
	Appointed by:		**No.**	**Date**	**Place**
COMEV	CRA	Philip Awashish Brian Craik	244 245	2011-05-06 2011-09-06	Montréal Montréal
	Canada	Anne-Marie Gaudet Louis Breton	246 247	2011-10-07 2011-12-15	Montréal Conference call
	Québec	Daniel Berrouard Mireille Paul	248	2012-02-22	Montréal
	Executive Secretary	Michael O'Neill			
	Appointed by:		**No.**	**Date**	**Place**
COMEX	CRA	Philip Awashish Brian Craik	277 278	2011-05-18 2011-06-16	Montréal Chibougamau
	Québec	Daniel Berrouard Pierre Mercier Robert Lemieux	279 280 281	2011-06-23 2011-07-28 2011-08-31	Montréal Montréal Chibougamau
	Executive Secretary	Stéphane Cossette	282 283 284 285 286 287	2011-09-28 2011-10-18 2011-11-07 and 11 2011-12-02 2012-01-25 2012-02-15	Montréal Montréal Montréal Montréal Montréal Montréal
	Appointed by:		**No.**	**Date**	**Place**
COFEX-South	CRA	Philip Awashish Kelly Leblanc	N/A	2011-04-11 2011-04-19 2011-05-25 2011-08-21 2011-11-04 2012-01-26	Montréal Québec Montréal Montréal Montréal Conference call
	Canada	Benoît Taillon Judy Doré (Member to be confirmed)			
	Executive Secretary	Benoît Théberge			

APPENDIX 4

PROJECTS SUBMITTED TO THE EVALUATING COMMITTEE (COMEV), PROVINCIAL REVIEW COMMITTEE (COMEX) AND FEDERAL REVIEW PANEL (COFEX-SOUTH) APRIL 2012

PROJECT	PROPONENT	COMEV RECOMMENDATION	COMEX RECOMMENDATION	COFEX-South RECOMMENDATION
Mining projects				
Advanced uranium exploration	Strateco Resources Inc.	--	Authorize project with conditions	Authorize project with conditions
Advanced gold exploration	Cadiscor Resources	--	Authorize project with conditions	
Lac Rocher mining project	Victory Nickel Inc.	--	In progress	
Eleonore gold mining project	Opinaca Mines	--	Authorize project with conditions	
Renard mining project: development of a diamond deposit on the Foxtrot property	Les Diamants Stornoway (Canada) Inc.	Directives issued	In progress	
Development of a spodumene deposit (Whabouchi project)	Nemaska Exploration Inc.	Directives issued	--	
Rose Tantalum-Lithium Project	Critical Elements Corporation	Directives issued	--	

PROJECT	PROPONENT	COMEV RECOMMENDATION	COMEX RECOMMENDATION	COFEX-South RECOMMENDATION
Mining projects				
James Bay Lithium Project	Galaxy Resources Ltd.	In progress		
Langlois Mine – request to increase total volume of tailings pond effluent	Breakwater Resources Ltd.	--	Amend certificate of authorization	
Extraction and milling of 900 000 tonnes of gold ore	Metanor Resources Inc.	Directives issued	In progress	
Gold exploration – ozonation system for cyanide destruction (request to amend the certificate of authorization)	Metanor Resources Inc.	--	Amend certificate of authorization	
Advanced gold exploration	Mines NAP Québec Ltée	In progress		
Surface development	Golden Tag Resources Ltd.	Not subject		
BlackRock project: iron mine		--	In progress	
BlackRock project – trench excavation and bulk sampling	BlackRock Metals Inc.	In progress		
Troilus mine: remediation plan			Amend certificate of authorization	

PROJECT	PROPONENT	COMEV RECOMMENDATION	COMEX RECOMMENDATION	COFEX-South RECOMMENDATION
Energy projects				
Eastmain-1-A / Sarcelle/Rupert hydroelectric development project (follow-up reports on authorization conditions) Redevelopment of affected sites (planting, seeding and maintenance of access roads) – 2011 master plan	Hydro-Québec	--	Amend certificate of authorization (Condition 2.2) Authorize 2011 master plan	
315-kV power line for Waswanipi	Hydro-Québec	Directives issued	--	
161-kV power line for the Renard mining project	Hydro-Québec	Directives issued	--	
Power supply for the BlackRock mining project	Hydro-Québec	In progress		

PROJECT	PROPONENT	COMEV RECOMMENDATION	COMEX RECOMMENDATION	COFEX-South RECOMMENDATION
Transportation and related projects				
Extension of Route 167 North	Ministère des Transports du Québec (MTQ)	--	Authorize project with conditions	
Forest road "E-West"	Barrette-Chapais	--	In progress	
Forest road "L-209 North"	Barrette-Chapais	--	In progress	
Forest roads "H–western section" and "I"	Matériaux Blanchet inc.	--	In progress	
Construction of forest road "J"	Domtar inc. /Eacom	--	In progress	
Forest road "H-eastern section"	Domtar inc. /Eacom	--	In progress	
Construction of an access road to a workcamp	Eastmain Resources Inc.	In progress		
Reuse of the winter road into the Eastmain mine	Strateco Resources Inc.	Not subject		
Temporary winter road (request to amend the certificate of authorization)	Opinaca Mines Ltd.	Not subject		
Temporary winter road, Dike AO-2 – Request to amend the certificate of authorization	Opinaca Mines Ltd.	--	Amend certificate of authorization	

PROJECT	PROPONENT	COMEV RECOMMENDATION	COMEX RECOMMENDATION	COFEX-South RECOMMENDATION
Quarry C-05	Opinaca Mines Ltd.	--	Authorize project	
Quarries C-04, C-07 and C-11 (request to amend the certificate of authorization)	Opinaca Mines Ltd.	--	Amend certificate of authorization	
Bridge – access road to a borrow pit	Cree First Nation of Mistissini	--	In progress	
Installation of a removable floating dock	Aurizon Mines Ltd.	Not subject		
Boat access ramp	Cree Nation of Chisasibi	Directives issued		--
Eastmain-1-A project: Construction of an ATV trail between KP 280 and KP 290	Hydro-Québec	--	In progress	

PROJECT	PROPONENT	COMEV RECOMMENDATION	COMEX RECOMMENDATION	COFEX-South RECOMMENDATION
Miscellaneous projects				
Albanel-Témiscamie-Otish park	Ministère du Développement durable, de l'Environnement et des Parcs	--	Authorize project with conditions	
Soil decontamination –Fontanges Airport	Hydro-Québec	Not subject		
Wastewater treatment plant	Cree Nation of Eastmain	--	Authorize project with conditions	
Upgrading of wastewater treatment system	Cree First Nation of Waswanipi	Directives issued	In progress	